

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0040

DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR HORBALY

DEPT PASS EA/PRCM

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CH
SUBJECT: STATUS OF AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE KOY NEELEY

1. NEWLY NAMED CHIEF OF THE EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN DIVISION OF MFA'S PROTOCOL OFFICE HSU TSUNG-HSI (TANG LUNG-PIN HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED) CALLED IN USLO OFFICER ON JANUARY 6 TO COMPLAIN ABOUT TRAVEL REQUEST FOR USLO OFFICER KOY NEELEY WHOM USLO HAD LISTED AS "AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE". HSU SAID THAT "IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, THE STATUS OF THE UNITED STATES LIAISON OFFICE, AND THE FACT THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED BEFOREHAND WITH THE CHINESE, THE SENDING OF AN "AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE" TO WORK AT USLO WAS INCONVENIENT. THE CHINESE SIDE HAS NO OBJECTION TO MR. NEELEY'S CONTINUING TO WORK AT THE LIAISON OFFICE AS AN ORDINARY OFFICIAL, BUT HE MUST UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES BE DESIGNATED AN "AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE." HSU SAID USLO SHOULD RESUBMIT THE TRAVEL REQUEST. USLO OFFICER SAID HE WOULD REPORT HSU'S COMMENTS TO HIS SUPERIORS.

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2. DURING THE RECENT VISIT OF WILLIAM HORBALY OF FAS TO PEKING, USLO DISCUSSED WITH HIM THE APPROPRIATE TITLE FOR MR. NEELEY, AND DECIDED TO FOLLOW USDA PRACTICE OF USING THE TITLE "ATTACHE." USLO APPLIED FOR AN IDENTIFICATION CARD USING THIS TITLE (WITHOUT THE ADDITION OF "AGRICULTURAL") AND IT WAS ISSUED WITHOUT COMMENT. WHEN MR. NEELEY APPLIED FOR PERMISSION TO VISIT TACHAI, OUR CHINESE LOCAL EMPLOYEE, WHO IS AWARE OF MR. NEELEY'S SPECIALTY, FOLLOWED THE PRACTICE OF THE MEXICAN AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE AND USED THE TITLE "ATTACHE (AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS)". THE PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT APPARENTLY PICKED UP THIS CHANGE IMMEDIATELY, AND REACTED AS IN PARA 1.

3. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT "ATTACHE" WITHOUT QUALIFYING ADJECTIVES SUCH AS "MILITARY", "COMMERCIAL", OR "AGRICULTURAL", IS NOT CONSIDERED AN OFFICER-LEVEL TITLE BY THE CHINESE, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR MR. NEELEY'S TITLE TO BE MORE IN CONSONANCE WITH HIS RANK. ORDINARY ATTACHES ARE, FOR EXAMPLE NOT NORMALLY INVITED TO PUBLIC OCCASIONS (WHICH ARE USUALLY LIMITED TO THIRD SECRETARIES OR ABOVE) AND HAVE CONSIDERABLY MORE DIFFICULTY IN TRAVELING THAN DO PERSONNEL OF HIGHER DIPLOMATIC RANK. WE RECOMMEND THAT HE BE GIVEN THE TITLE OF FIRST SECRETARY, WHICH IS IN CLOSER ACCORDANCE WITH HIS EXPERIENCE AND SALARY. SINCE USDA USUALLY MAKES IT A POINT TO HAVE FAS OFFICERS ABROAD CARRY THE TITLE OF AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE, THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO DISCUSS WITH FAS THE ADVANTAGES OF THE "FIRST SECRETARY" TITLE AND THE DISADVANTAGES OF "ATTACHE" TO MR. NEELEY'S ABILITY TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY IN THE PRC. IF THERE IS NO OBJECTION, WE COULD THEN "PROMOTE" MR. NEELEY TO FIRST SECRETARY. PLEASE ADVISE.

4. NEELEY CONCURS.
THAYER

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